

Economic Growth

646. SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Reforms have lost steam: Alt. Eco. Survey—Data Jugglery" cannot conceal crisis in agriculture, Industry appeared in "Pioneer" dated May 22, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure the real growth of economy with stability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) A news item captioned "Reforms have lost steam: Alt. Eco. Survey—Data jugglery cannot conceal crisis in agriculture, industry" appeared in the Pioneer, New Delhi, Thursday, May 22, 1997.

The information and analysis presented in the Economic Survey 1996-97 is based on information made available by Government agencies. The Economic Survey was presented to Parliament on 26.2.97. The Economic Survey is the only authentic document presenting the status of the Indian Economy during the current year.

As per the revised estimates released by the CSO in the second week of July, 1997, incorporating the latest estimates of agricultural and industrial production, GDP for the year 1996-97 at factor cost at constant (1980-81) prices shows a growth of 6.8 per cent over the Quick Estimates of GDP for the year 1995-96. Although there is no change in the growth at the overall level from the level estimated earlier, there have been major revisions in the growth rates at the sectoral levels. For example, growth in agriculture, forestry and fishing has been revised up-wards to 5.7 per cent from 3.7 per cent estimated earlier, and that in manufacturing down-wards to 8.1 per cent from 10.6 per cent estimated earlier.

Economic Reforms is a continuous process. Budget 1997-98 has initiated reforms in a number of directions. In addition, a number of steps have been taken to consolidate the gains of reforms initiated earlier.

Export of Rice

647. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether rice is being exported at present; and

(b) if so, the details of different grades of rice exported to various countries during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) The exports of Basmati and Non-Basmati Rice are permitted freely subject to registration of contracts with Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Devel-

opment Authority. The Quantity & Value of Basmati & Non-Basmati Rice exported during the last three years are as follows:-

Year	Qty: Lakh MTs Value: Rs. Crores			
	Basmati		Non Basmati Rice	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1994-95	4.42	865.32	4.48	340.47
1995-96	3.73	850.67	45.41	3717.41
1996-97	4.89	1197.75	19.85	1952.83
1997-98 (April-97)	0.23	97.18	0.97	107.52
1996-97 (April-96)	0.61	130.58	3.11	296.52

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

Country-wise details of exports are given in the monthly bulletin/annual numbers of Foreign Trade Statistics of India published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

Robberies/Dacoities in Public Sector Banks

648. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases robberies/dacoities in the public sector banks reported during the years 1994, 1995, 1996 and the current year, so far, state-wise, alongwith the amount involved therein;

(b) the number of bank employees killed or injured during the above robberies/dacoities, State-wise;

(c) whether adequate financial assistance of employment has been provided to the dependent of those employees;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Permanent Account Numbers to Income Tax Payers

649. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Direct Taxes propose to introduce to allot permanent account number (PAN) facility to Income Tax Payers all over the country from 1997-98;